

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 /096 W

----- 041609

R 200545Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3076

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LUANDA 1005

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT AO

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CLARIFIES ARREST OF BUSINESSMEN; ECONOMIC
ASSOCIATIONS CONSURE THE GOVERNMENT

REF: LUANDA 0994

1. IN THE WAKE OF PRESS SPECULATION THAT AS MANY AS THIRTY ONE
BUSINESSMEN HAD BEEN TAKEN PRISONER AND SENT TO LISBON ON CHARGES
OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, THE SECRETARY OF SOCIAL INFORMATION ISSUED
THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE ON NOVEMBER 18:

"RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING IN LUANDA THAT A WAVE OF ARRESTS OF
IMPORTANT ANGOLANS WAS CARRIED OUT AT DAWN NOVEMBER 17.

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DESPITE THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ANGOLAN JUNTA,

IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTARY CLARIFICATION TO PRESENT THE TRUE FACTS OF THE CASE.

"DR FERNANDES VIEIRA, A WELL-KNOWN INDUSTRIALIST WAS DETAINED, AS WAS MR CORTES REAL, MANAGER OF SOREL (IMPORTER AND DISTRIBUTOR OF FARM AND CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY). IN ADDITION, AN ARREST WARRANT WAS ISSUED FOR MR RENATO CARDOSO WHO, IT IS PRESUMED HAS LEFT THE PROVINCE.

"THESE DETENTIONS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ACTIVITY OF THE ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS, INDEED, THE ACTS OF WHICH THE FOREGOING PERSONS ARE SUSPECTED OF ARE CONTRARY TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THESE ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH ARE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ANGOLA.

"THE ACCUSATION OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE AGAINST THESE MEN IS BASED ON CONFIRMED ACTS THE AIM OF WHICH WAS THE ECONOMIC PARALYSIS OF THE COUNTRY, SPECIFICALLY, THE RECENT PARTIAL PARALYSIS OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC, THE RESOLUTION OF WHICH THEY BLOCKED BY TRANSFORMING JUST CLAIMS OF THE TRUCK DRIVERS INTO A POLITICAL MANEUVER, WHICH IF IT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL, WOULD HAVE CAUSED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHAOS."

2. THE ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS OF ANGOLA HELD A SPECIAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19 TO CONSIDER RECENT EVENTS AND ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE, THE MAIN POINTS OF WHICH FOLLOW:

A) THE ACCUSATIONS (AGAINST FERNANDES VIEIRA AND THE OTHERS) ARE COMPLETELY FALSE AND UNFOUNDED, AS CAN BE VERIFIED BY THE EXPERT TESTIMONY OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS.

B) THE ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS DO NOT ACCEPT AND WILL NOT PERMIT A DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN THE ACTS OF THE ACCUSED AND THOSE OF THE ASSOCIATIONS, AS THE ACTS OF THESE MEN IN THIS CASE WERE DIRECTED TOWARD THE DEFENSE OF THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF ANGOLA AND CARRIED OUT AS MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS.

C) THE ASSOCIATIONS PUBLICLY CENSURE THE FALSE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THESE MEN, ACCUSATIONS THAT SHOULD BE DIRECTED AT PERSONS AND ENTITIES WHOSE MALICIOUS ACTS IN OTHER SECTORS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ANGOLAN ECONOMY ARE WELL KNOWN.

D) FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, THE ASSOCIATIONS EXPECT THAT THOSE DETAINED WILL BE FREED AND RETURNED IMMEDIATELY.

3. THE COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF FOURTEEN COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS THROUGHOUT ANGOLA. KILLORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, SABOTAGE, POLITICAL SITUATION, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUANDA01005
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740335-0888
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741128/aaaaaxgo.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LUANDA 0994
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 NOV 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT CLARIFIES ARREST OF BUSINESSMEN; ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS CONSURE THE GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, AO, (CARDOSO, RENATO), (REAL, CORTES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005